

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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ICA FOR PGM/RC AND AR, STATE FOR ARA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - VISIT OF STATE/COMMERCE TEAM TO JAMAICA

1. JAMAICAN MEDIA REACTION TO SUBJECT VISIT, HEADED BY
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARELLANO, HAS BEEN HEAVY. REPORTS
APPEARED DAILY IN THE PRINT MEDIA, RADIO NEWS SHOWS CARRIED
REPORTS AS OFTEN AS THREE TIMES A DAY, AND JBC-TC CARRIED
THREE SEPARATE FILM REPORTS DURING THE FOUR DAYS OF THE VISIT.
MEDIA COVERAGE WAS CAPPED BY FAVORABLE EDITORIAL IN THE
DAILY GLEANER ON SATURDAY, 29 JULY. FOLLOWING IS THE FULL
TEXT OF THE GLEANER EDITORIAL, WHICH APPEARED UNDER THE
THREE COLUMN HEAD: "U.S. ECONOMIC MISSION":

2. BEGIN TEXT:

WHATEVER COMES OF THE VISIT TO THIS COUNTRY OF THE ECONOMIC
MISSION FROM THE UNITED STATES, ONE FACT EMERGES CLEARLY
FROM ITS COMING. THIS IS THE REALISATION THAT, WHATEVER THE
POSTURES AND THE DECLARATIONS TO THE CONTRARY, JAMAICA IS
DEPENDENT TO A VERY LARGE EXTENT ON THE SUPPORT WHICH IT CAN
RECEIVE FROM ITS GREAT NEIGHBOUR TO THE NORTH IN TERMS OF
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TRADE AND AID.

SINCE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT CAME TO POWER, THERE HAS
BEEN MUCH CONFUSION AS TO WHAT IS THE REAL RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN JAMAICA AND THE UNITED STATES. ON THE ONE HAND, THERE
HAS BEEN A TENDENCY TO DENOUNCE IMPERIALISM AND CAPITALISM
AS MLIN EVILS FOR WHICH ALL THE ILLS AFFECTING THIS COUNTRY

ARE TO BE BLAMED. THIS SWEEPING DENOUNCEMENT HAS HAD THE EFFECT OF PUTTING A DAMPER ON JAMAICA-U.S. RELATIONS, SINCE IT CANNOT BE MADE TO APPEAR THAT THESE ATTACKS ARE NOT AIMED AT THE UNITED STATES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE CONTINUES TO BE A DEPENDENCE ON AMERICAN AID AND TRADE AS ONE OF THE FOUNDATION STONES OF THE JAMAICAN ECONOMY.

THIS AMBIVALENT ATTITUDE HAD DONE NOTHING TO STRENGTHEN THE TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. WHAT IT HAS DONE IS TO CREATE A NEW AREA OF MISTRUST AND MISUNDERSTANDING IN WHICH THE ONLY SUFFERER HAS BEEN JAMAICA. TALK ABOUT NEW ECONOMIC ALLIANCES AND NEW TRADING PARTNERS HAS BEEN LARGELY ILLUSORY, BEARING LITTLE RELATION TO THE PRACTICAL AND PRAGMATIC NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY.

FORTUNATELY, THE UNITED STATES, WHICH SEES JAMAICA AS PART OF THE STRATEGIC AREA OF THE CARIBBEAN, HAS NOT BEEN MISLED BY THIS SEEMING CONTRARIENESS ON THE PART OF JAMAICA. WITH A CLEAR-EYED VISION OF WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN A WORLD OF COMPETING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FORCES, THE UNITED STATES STILL REGARDS JAMAICA AS A VENUE FOR THE PROMOTION OF AMERICAN INTERESTS, IN THE ENLIGHTENED CONTEXT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT.

THERE IS REASON FOR HOPE THEN THAT, WITH THE COMING OF THIS LATEST U.S. ECONOMIC MISSION AND ITS FUNDINGS WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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RESPECT TO THE CLIMATE FOR INVESTMENT HERE, SOME GOOD WILL COME, AND THAT JAMAICA, DESPITE ITS PRESENT MEANDERINGS ALONG THE PATH OF POLITICAL ALIGNMENTS, OUTSIDE THE ORBIT OF WESTERN ALLIANCES, MIGHT YET RETURN TO THE AMERICAN AMBIT AND DERIVE THE FULLEST BENEFIT THAT IT CAN FROM CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH A GREAT AND FRIENDLY NEIGHBOUR.

3. TEAR SHEETS OF DAILY PRINT COVERAGE SENT OFFICIAL AIR TO INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEMBERS AND ARA.
SANDSTROM

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